

1973

May 2, 1973

The Athens-Clarke County Library Board met at the Regional Library on Wednesday afternoon, May 2, 1973 at 4:30 o'clock.

Present were Mrs. F.H.Mendenhall, Archie Patterson, Clinton Adams, Mrs. J.B.Neighbors, Marvin Perry and Sarah Maret. Also present were Smiley Wolfe representing the Clarke County Commissioners and Carlton Thaxton and Lila Rice of the Department of Education.

In the absence of the Chairman, Hal Cofer, and Vice-chairman, W.W.Wier the meeting was presided over by Mrs. F.H.Mendenhall, past chairman. She called the meeting to order and welcomed the representatives from the state, the County Commissioners and the Board.

A letter from Mrs. Roberta (Mrs. Stewart) Brown Jr., vice-chairman of the Franklin County Library Board was read. A copy of the letter is attached to these minutes. Mrs. Brown asked that the board give consideration to working out a plan whereby the Franklin County Libraries might merge into the Athens Region. Mrs. Mendenhall asked Mr. Thaxton to give the background on the libraries in Franklin County. He reported that he had met with their board and he told them that it would be wise for them to consider the possibility of joining a regional system. He said that Miss Rice had worked with them more closely than he had and asked her to brief the Board on the library situation in Franklin County. Miss Rice gave a comprehensive report on the situation. She explained the advantages and disadvantages to both Franklin County and to the Region by coming together. Also she pointed out some of the problems which might be faced.

Mr. Patterson moved that we get with the Franklin County Board and talk about the merger. Motion seconded by Mrs. Neighbors. Motion was carried. Mr. Thaxton said he would try to be present for the meeting. Mr. Wolfe asked about the possibility of getting another traveling vehicle so that the counties served could be served on a four-weeks basis rather than the present seven-weeks schedule. Mr. Thaxton pointed out that we must not let the present counties in the region feel that it would cost them for Franklin County to be added to the system. Both Miss Rice and Mr. Thaxton said they did not want the Board to feel that they were being pressured into taking Franklin County into the Region and that it must be pointed out to them that they must be able to carry the cost of the service of their three existing libraries and of the bookmobile.

Following the discussion, Mr. Thaxton and Miss Rice asked if they might leave as they had other commitments.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The following reports were given: Miss Maret reported that the project which had been discussed at the last meeting, involving the State Department of Education, the Clarke County School District and the Regional Library had not been heard from. She felt that due to the cut in Federal funds, this program called Family Enrichment Program, would be eliminated and that it would be dropped at least for the time being.

Mr. Patterson, chairman of the grounds committee, reported that very little work had been done of the grounds. It was suggested that Mr. Raymond Tate, the brick mason, be contacted and asked to erect the brick wall, the funds for ~~which~~ which had been voted at the last meeting. The trees which need to be taken down are still a hazard and should be removed as soon as possible. Mr. Wolfe suggested that the Board write to the County Commissioners and ask them for help in getting them down. Mr. Patterson also reported that a new yard man had been employed and that he was doing a good job.

Miss Maret reported that the library had received cuts in federal funding for the current year by about \$17,000. To off-set some of the loss of these funds, the county and the city had increased the library's budget by \$5,000 each. She said we should be able to operate for the year with this increase and that the our library was much better off than a number of libraries in the state.

Miss Maret reported that some of the leaks in the roof had been fixed, but that the roof had not completely stopped leaking. It was suggested that she call Mr. Heery and ask him to get in touch with the contractor about the roof.

We have a new bookmobile driver. She is Joy Emerick and is doing a good job. She began work in January.

Mrs. Mendenhall reported that no names had been suggested for the board. She said she would talk with Mr. Cofer and Mr. Wilson so that some names could be selected and presented to the appointing authorities.

ed
Miss Maret said she would like to request some revenue sharing funds. Need are some additional shelving, a cabinet for registration and a new copying machine. The cost of these items comes to about \$2300. It was pointed out that we do not want the money for these items to take the place of our regular allotment from the city and county, but that this would be in addition to what they are giving. After some discussion, it was moved by Mr. Patterson that the library ask for some revenue sharing money. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Neighbors. Motion carried.

The board expressed opposition to the library's turning off its lights for a time to ~~show~~ show despair over the loss of federal funds for libraries.

Mrs. Mendenhall ^{Bo} reported that we would try to get with the Franklin County Library to talk about the proposed merger

Dawn E Maret
Secretary

November 19, 1973

The Athens Regional Library Board met at the Regional Library on Monday afternoon, November 19, 1973 at 4:30 o'clock. Present were: Clarke County - H.L.Cofer, Jr., Mrs. F.H.Mendenhall, Archie Patterson, Troutman Wilson,W.W.Wier, Mrs.J.B.Neighbors, Mrs. Robert G.Stephens and Sarah Maret. Oconee County - Mrs. Roland Harris. Oglethorpe County - Mrs. W.G.Callaway. Madison County - Mrs.Oneta Langford. Also present were, Jim Holland, Chairman of the Clarke County Commissione Invited guests were Mrs. McGarity and Mrs. Gordon Telford of the Franklin County Library Board.

Chairman Cofer called the meeting to order, welcomed the guests and the board members and asked each to introduce themselves. Mr. Cofer said that the board would first discuss the request from Franklin County to become affiliated with the Athens Regional Library. Chairman Cofer gave a report of the activities which had taken place regarding the request. A special committee composed of Mrs. Mendenhall, Mr. Patterson, Miss Maret and Mr. Cofer had met with Mrs. Stewart Brown to discuss the Franklin County Libraries. Several days following this meeting the committee visited the libraries in Royston, Lavonia and Carnesville. These libraries make up the Franklin County library system. He said that they had been impressed with these libraries. The question of bookmobile service to Franklin County was then discussed at length. It was pointed out that it would be necessary to purchase a new bookmobile to serve the county. Miss Maret reported that the purchase on a mini bookmobile might be considered for the service and that one could be bought for about \$6800. Several of this type were in operation in the state and have proven very successful. After some discussion it was learned

that Franklin County would not be able to finance any sort of truck for the service nor to finance its operation. Mrs. McGarity said that her board was not as interested in bookmobile service as they were in securing the service of a trained librarian to help with the supervision of their staff, the purchasing of books for their libraries and the processing of these books. It was pointed out by Mrs. Langford that bookmobile service was of great assistance to the residents of a county and that this type of service might be considered when funds became available. Mrs. McGarity said that the residents of her county could use the existing libraries as they were no more than ten miles from one of these libraries. She said that she would like to see several sections of the county served, such as Red Hill, Sandy Cross and Canon, however. After more discussion it was moved by Mr. Patterson that Franklin County be taken into the Region. Motion seconded by Mrs. Neighbors. In the discussion that followed it was asked if the county had funds to purchase supplies to process the books and it was reported that there was very little money in their budget for these items. It was decided that a committee from Franklin County, the Athens Regional Library Board and Miss Maret get with Mr. Thaxton of the Public Library Service of the State Department of Education and work out the financial arrangements of the merger. After this discussion the motion for merger was carried.

Reports from representatives from Oglethorpe County, Oconee County and Madison County were given.

The representative from Oglethorpe County reported that Mrs. Marchman, longtime librarian of the Oglethorpe County Library, was in a nursing home after having fallen and broken a hip and that a substitute librarian was working at this time. Mrs. Harris, report-

ing for Oconee County said that they were working on getting more space for their library. It is hoped that revenue sharing funds will be available to enlarge the existing library. Mrs. Langford, Chairman of the Madison County Library Board reported for her county. She said they were pleased with their library in its new quarters. She also said that Paul Tabor, a native of Madison County, had written a history of the county and that the board was seeking funds to get it published. Help had been sought from the Gholston family, but that their funds were controlled by the C & S Bank. She asked help from the Regional Board to get some of this money to publish the book. Polk Gholston, one of the heirs, seemed to be in favor of the project. Mrs. Langford said that there is a copy of the history in the county court house. Funds also have been sought from the Georgia Heritage Foundation.

Mr. Patterson, chairman of the grounds committee, reported that the fence in the parking lot needed to be extended to close in the back of the lot. He was told to find out the cost of extending the fence. The fence would keep the walking traffic from going through this area. It was pointed out that several incidents had taken place in the lot and that it was not safe from purse snatchers and from cars being broken into. Also discussed was the removable of the large tree stump left when a large tree was taken down. It was suggested that the city might help with the removable of the stump and the chairman was asked to see if the city's help could be secured. It was the consensus of the board that the need for more parking space was urgent and that this be done rather than replacing the tree.

Mr. Cofer reported that he had been consulted on prices for having a grounds committee set up in the county to take care of the many grounds

around buildings owned by the county. He, as well as the board, felt that this was a very good idea since it is difficult to get work done in the yard. Much criticism, he said, had been received about the way the fragrance garden had been kept. He said that the library had spent all of its budget at one time to get the garden cleaned and that it would take a considerable amount of money just to take care of the grounds. Mr. Holland said the commissioners had the matter of a grounds unit under consideration and something should be decided within the next month or two.

Mrs. Mendenhall, chairman of the personnel committee, reported that we were losing one of our most valuable staff members. She said Mrs. Page Riesbol is to be married soon to Mr. Thomas Hunter. She said she had interviewed a young lady, Mrs. Kathryn Ames, for the position of library consultant. Mrs. Ames is a graduate of the U. of Tenn. with a Masters Degree. Her husband teaches at the U. of Ga. She was employed on a six months trial basis to see how family obligations work out since she has a three year old child.

Mr. Cofer reported that he had had a favorable report from the state auditor.

Forms were passed for members to join the Georgia Library Trustees Association. Dues are \$4.00 per year.

The maintainance of the building was discussed. It was pointed out that better cleaning was needed. Some professional services have been employed at times. If the present janitor cannot do the work, it was suggested that additional help be secured.

The budget was passed to the board. After some discussion it was moved by Mr. Wilson that the budget as presented be approved. Motion seconded by Mrs. Langford. Motion carried.

Mrs. Stephens was asked to thank her husband for the support he

he has given libraries in Congress. It was noted that federal funds had been impounded this year and that the program needed as many friends as possible in congress.

Miss Maret gave a report on the Winterville Library for Mrs. Biles who had been unable to attend the meeting. Plans call for the library to open early in 1974. A bazaar has been planned for December 8 and the money made on articles sold will go for the support of the library. The recent publicity in the Daily News was cited.

The nominating committee composed of W.W.Wier, Chairman, Mrs. Neighbors and John Hurley was appointed by the chairmen. A report is to be given at the December meeting.

The Chairman said that some new names would be submitted to the city and to the county for appointment of the board. He noted that a letter of resignation had been received from Mr. Perry. This was received with regret as Mr. Perry had been a very valuable member of the board. Many members' terms expire in 1974. Mr. Cofer said that appointments should be made so that only about five members should be appointed each year. He said that the board should be reorganized and that some members should be reappointed for a staggered term so that all would not be appointed in the same year. Several suggestions were made. Mr. Wilson moved that an honorary board be established so that members might be continued in an honorary capacity. Motion seconded by Mr. Patterson. Motion carried.

Mr. Wilson moved that \$1,000 be set aside to spend on the grounds. Motion seconded by Mr. Wier. Motion carried. It was pointed out that we need to think about employing a full-time person for grounds care.

There was no other business. Meeting adjourned.

*Dorothy E. Maret
Secretary*

December 13, 1973

A meeting of the Executive Committee and Standing Committee Chairmen of the Athens Regional Library Board was held at the library on Thursday, December 13, 1973 at 2:00 p.m. Present were W.W.Wier, T.H.Milner, Jr., Troutman Wilson, Archie Patterson, Mrs. F.H.Mendenhall and Sarah Maret.

Vice chairman Wier called the meeting to order as the Chairman, H.L.Cofer, was hospitalized.

Dates for the closing of the library for the Christmas holidays and the New Year holidays were discussed. It was moved by Mr. Milner and seconded by Mr. Wilson that the library close for Christmas from December 23 to December 27 and that the library close on December 31 at 1:00 p.m. and reopen on January 2, 1974 for the New Year holidays. Motion was seconded by Mr. Wilson. Motion carried.

Salary supplements for the staff for the month of December were discussed. It was moved by Mr. Wilson that up to \$1,000 be allocated for this purpose and that the Vice chairman and the Director determine the amount each employee was to receive. Mr. Wier asked that the motion be amended and name Mrs. Mendenhall, Chairman of the personnel committee, to work with the Director to determine the allocation of the supplements. Motion as amended was seconded by Mr. Milner. Motion carried.

Mrs. Mendenhall asked that the Chairman of the board write to Mrs. Riesbol, who has recently married, and thank her for the valuable service she rendered to the library while she was on the staff. The letter is to be written when her address is known.

A "get well" card was signed by each member present to send to Mr. Cofer.

There was no other business. Meeting adjourned.

*Sarah E. Maret
Secretary*